



**MEDIA ADVISORY
FROM
SECRETARY OF STATE
W. FOX MCKEITHEN**

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
P. O. BOX 94125
BATON ROUGE, LA 70804-9125

PUBLIC INFORMATION SECTION
TEL: (225) 342-4479
E-MAIL: PUBLICINFO@SEC.STATE.LA.US

Date: Sept. 27, 2002

For Immediate Release

National Student/Parent Mock Election Hits Campaign Trail

Baton Rouge - Secretary of State W. Fox McKeithen announces that the Secretary of State's Office is once again hitting the campaign trail with the National Student/Parent Mock Election. This highly successful voter education program allows hundreds of thousands of Louisiana students to participate in their own election and gain experience in voting.

Since 1996, Louisiana's Old State Capitol has served as our state headquarters for the mock election, welcoming thousands of student visitors every year to cast their vote. As in previous years, the Old State Capitol and State Department museums all over Louisiana will serve as student polling places. In addition, the Secretary of State's office will be visiting schools across Louisiana with a special "roaming precinct" bus, giving even more students the opportunity to vote.

"For many years Louisiana has led the charge in educating students about voting," says McKeithen, "Louisiana's student mock election turnout has drawn national attention, and we truly believe that the mock election will one day be a key factor in permanently increasing voter turnout in our state."

Students from kindergarten to 12th grade are eligible to vote in the mock elections, and the students will be voting both on machines and paper ballots. This year, the mock election ballot will feature the U.S. Senate race as well as U.S. House of Representatives races appropriate to the students' area. The results of the mock election are always kept secret until the end of the actual election.

####